TERROR TALES

K. 47325

APRIL 1973

60¢

HORROR FROM THE TOMB

CURSE OF THE MUMMIES

WEIRD TERROR RUNS RAMPANT WITH

THE MONSTER

KING KONG

Item 639K.....King Kong.....$1.00
Item 639B, Beast from 20,000 fathoms 1.00
ORDER BOTH for $1.75 and save

ATOMIC SMOKE BOMB
Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.
No. 971 20c

Secret Spy Scope

PEN SIZE—CLIPS ON YOUR POCKET. 6 POWER MAGNIFIER.
Six power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument.
No. F59 $1.50

"GENUINE" VAMPIRE BLOOD — VAMPIRE B-L-O-O-D

You never know when a Vampire will strike! Be ready with this realistic-looking "Vampire blood" and watch the girls swoon. Non-toxic of course--absolutely safe. Comes in a tube.
Item No. 622.....50¢

JOY BUZZER
Windup novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "SHOCKING" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.
No. 239 Only 50c

WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream
No. 247 50c

SILENT DOG WHISTLE

This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.
No. 701 $1.00

TRICK BASEBALL
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No. 30 75¢

Scary, Life-Size

MONSTER GHOST

Obeys Your Commands!
OVER 7 FEET TALL
Scare the daylights out of your "victim" as this terrifying life size ghost hovers and darts over him. Can be controlled up to 50 feet away so you can hide while watching your victim. Complete instructions included.
MT101.....$1.00

JACK POT BANK
Dime-operated "One armed Bandit" works like those in Las Vegas. Deposit dime, pull handle, and reels spin like the real thing. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling.
No. 2040 $1.69

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Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."
No. 137 25c

Chop a cigarette in two in either hole. Put finger in top hole and cigarette in lower. The cigarette is cut, but your finger is unharmed. Full instructions. $1
No. 6222

FINGER CHOPPER

RAQUEL WELCH PILLOW
ONLY $1.98 What man wouldn't enjoy spending a night with Raquel Welch? Well, we can't deliver her, but we can deliver that next best thing —a 12" x 24" inflatable pillow of Raquel made of rugged vinyl to serve as your headrest. Keep her for yourself or show her to your friends. Livens up party when everyone sees and feels this great gag item.
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No. 783 $1.00
4 Rolls Film $1.00

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★ BADGE ★ CARRYING CASE
★ SPECIAL I. D. CARD
ONLY $2.75

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ONLY 3.98
Weighted Wristlets

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To Give you mighty striking power
"Power Packed" wristlets build the powerful arms you want without special equipment or exercises. Just wear these rugged lead weighted wristlets during your ordinary activities at work or play.
#900.....$3.98

WORLDS UGLIEST HANDS
Slip these knobby "paws" on and watch your friends disappear. Ugh! They're awful! If you're got the courage, maybe you can have fun(?) with them.
Item No. 607...$1.98

TRICK BLACK SOAP
Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless.
No. 575 Only 35c

FULL SIZE SKELETON
7 FEET TALL EYES GLOW IN THE DARK
This 7 foot tall "BONEY THE SKELETON" is scary enough at any time —but wait till you see him IN THE DARK in all his horrible, spine chilling grandeur, eyes glowing like fiery coals. If you like to haunt houses or frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang "Boney" in your room or to liven up a party.
No. F200 $1.00

ONION GUM
Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack.
No. 281 25c

FOAMING SUGAR
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NO 549 25¢

HOT PEPPER GUM
Lots of FUN amazing out! This Spearmint Gum with Hot Pepper added. Regulation pack, 5 sticks in cello wrapped package to keep it fresh.
A121 25¢

SURPRISE PACKAGE
Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.
No. 878 Only 50c

WEREWOLF HORROR MASK
This rubber mask is so grotesque that it is sure to shake up the whole neighborhood. Be the "Werewolf" that prowls again!
No. 26W....$1.98

MUSCLES OF STEEL
Results in just 30 days
Pocket gym slaps inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Gain the respect of your friends —the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one! Made of heavy rubber.
No. 7001 only $1.00

MAGIC CARDS
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No. 183 $1.50

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A135 1.25

OVER 1000 FREE GIFTS YOURS FOR THE ASKING
This miracle book gives the addresses of associations, federal agencies and manufacturers that are anxious to send you ABSOLUTELY FREE samples, manuals, and books. A fabulous treasure trove completely up-to-date which will bring you gifts worth many times its low cost.
Item #88 50c

GROW AMAZING LIVE
sea-monkeys
Just ADD WATER And You've Got
INSTANT PETS
$1.00

What fun and laughs as you watch your zoo full of Sea Monkeys obey your commands, dance to music, and loop-the-loop. A "Variety Show" for the whole family for only $1. FREE Instruction Book, water purifier, and a FULL YEAR supply of growth food.
NO. FL5.....$1.00

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35 WILBUR ST., LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563
Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.
We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00.

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

NAME
ADDRESS ZIP
NY State residents add state and local sales tax.

TERROR TALES

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EVERYONE HAS HEARD AND LAUGHED AT THE EXPRESSION, "IF LOOKS COULD KILL!" THIS IS THE STORY OF BOSS SQUINT... A MAN WHO FOUND THAT HE HAD THIS STRANGE POWER...

CURSE OF THE MUMMIES

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ANOTHER SMALL PORTION OF THE ENGLISH JEWEL ROBBERY IS SMUGGLED ABOARD A SHIP...
WHAT A SWEET RACKET! NOTHING TO DO BUT DELIVER THE GOODS TO BIG STEVE AND BE PAID OFF!
YOU POOR SUCKER--YOU'RE ONLY WASTING YOUR TIME! NOW TO SPOT MY CONTACT--A MAN WITH A RED CARNATION!
RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE! GO TO AREA SIX TO HAVE YOUR LUGGAGE CHECKED...
YOUR LUGGAGE LOOKS OKAY, SIR!
THANKS, BUDDY!
SQUINT WAS MET AT THE BOAT...
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU, SQUINT! BIG STEVE SAYS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET THE STUFF PAST CUSTOMS WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT!
HE'S RIGHT! AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WHEN WE GET TO STEVE'S!
SQUINT! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, PAL! NO TROUBLE, EH?
NAW, STEVE! IT WENT REAL SMOOTH! HI, FELLAS...
LET'S SEE WHAT YA GOT THIS TIME!
WHAT'S HE DOING TO HIS FACE?
OKAY, STEVE, JUST A TWIST OF THE WRIST, AND...

PRESTO! JUST LIKE MAGIC...

H-HE TOOK HIS EYE OUT!
EASY, MAX--THAT'S THE GIMMICK! IT'S A GLASS EYE WITH ROOM INSIDE TO CARRY DIAMONDS!

SURE, MAX-- HE'S OUR BOY WITH THE MILLION DOLLAR LOOK!

THERE YOU ARE, BOYS...
PRETTY... BUT I LIKE 'EM BETTER WHEN THEY'RE TURNED INTO CASH!
AHH-- LET ME FEEL 'EM!
I'LL BE...

LOOK...HOW COME YOU GOT THIS NEW GUY, MAX INTO THE SET UP?
TAKE IT EASY! WAIT 'TILL THE OTHERS BLOW!

SQUINT, THE FEDS HAVE BEEN NOSYING AROUND! SEEMS TO ME THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE! TELL HIM ABOUT IT, MAX!

I GOT AN EMERALD A GUY IN EGYPT HAS BEEN KEEPING FOR ME! IT WOULD FIT INTO THAT EYE JUST RIGHT!
SOUNDS GREAT! GIVE ME THE LOWDOWN!

A FEW DAYS LATER...
I'LL SEE YA IN TEN WEEKS!
HA! DON'T GET ANY EGYPTIAN SAND IN YOUR EYES! HA-HA!
KEEP IN TOUCH!

SQUINT DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME! HE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN GETTING MAX'S EMERALD... THAT IS UNTIL...
NOW...THE ADDRESS... HEY...THAT GUY... HEY... WHAT ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME FOR?
SIRE, YOU NEED GOOD GUIDE? I CAN SHOW YOU SECRETS OF EGYPT... JUST A FEW PENNIES, SIRE...
...COME, I WILL SHOW YOU A MYSTERY OF WHICH MY PEOPLE FEAR TO SPEAK...
WELL, WHY NOT! I COULD USE SOME RELAXATION ANYWAY!

FOR AN HOUR THE TWO RODE ACROSS THE BARREN DESERT LAND...THEN...
OKAY! SO IT'S A PYRAMID... NOW WHAT?
TONIGHT IS THE ANCIENT RITUAL... YOU WILL SEE WHAT NO WHITE MAN HAS EVER SEEN! THE DEAD WILL WALK!

EVEN THE AIR SEEMED DEAD IN THE ANCIENT TOMB AS THEY WENT DOWN...
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?
IT IS THE SIGNAL FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE CEREMONY OF THE DEAD! HURRY, OR WE'LL MISS IT!

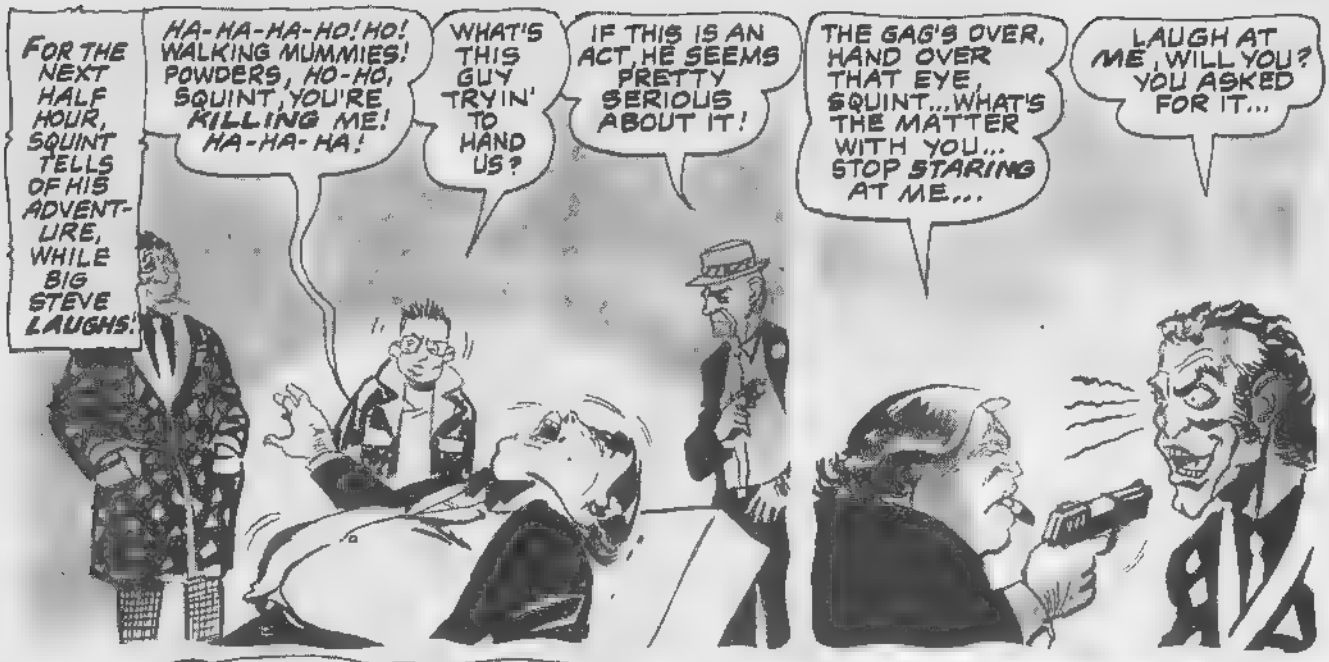
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
QUIET! DISCOVERY MEANS DEATH TO US! LOOK!
OH, ALL POWERFUL GODS, I HAVE BURNED THE SACRED POWDER! I ASK YOU TO LET THE ANCIENT DEAD WALK AGAIN ON THIS ONE NIGHT OF THE YEAR!

WITH ANCIENT SOUNDS, THE MUMMY CASES OPEN...
T-THEY'RE COMING TO LIFE! IT MUST BE THAT POWDER... I MUST GET SOME...
NO! THEY WILL TEAR YOU TO PIECES!

SILENTLY, SLOWLY, SQUINT SLITHERED TO THE ALTAR, DETERMINED TO POSSESS THE MYSTERIOUS POWDER...
ANCIENT KINGS... WHAT TROUBLES YOU? OH... AN INTRUDER! AFTER HIM... KILL HIM!!
THEY SEE ME!
C'MON--WE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I-C-CANNOT G-GO F-FASTER! I-I AM DOOMED!
BELOW, THE PONDEROUS STEPS OF THE ANCIENT DEAD KINGS RELENTLESSLY FOLLOW...
OH, THEY GOT HIM! I'LL BE NEXT!
ON A LAST MOMENT OF DESPERATION, SQUINT THROWS ONE OF THE VIALS OF POWDER AT THE ONRUSHING MUMMIES, AND...
BAL-OOM
WHAT A BREAK! THIS STUFF IS LIKE T.N.T.! NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE...
WITHOUT STOPPING, SQUINT RAN ALL THE WAY TO HIS HOTEL ROOM...
I--I (PUFF-PUFF) GOT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE--MIGHT COME AFTER ME HERE (PUFF)...TAKE BOAT, TONIGHT...

WHEW! AM I GLAD TO SEE THE LAST OF THAT PLACE! AS FOR THE POWDER I STOLE--NO ONE IS GOING TO GET THAT! NOT WHILE I'VE GOT IT HIDDEN IN MY GLASS EYE!
HOME AT LAST! BUT SQUINT DIDN'T KNOW THE SECRET POWER HE POSSESSED UNTIL...
GOOD TO BE HOME! WONDER HOW MUCH I SHOULD TELL MAX AND STEVE...
HEY! BEAT IT, MUTT.. GET AWAY!
DUNNIE PARTS
I HEARD IF YOU LOOK 'EM IN THE EYE, SHOW 'EM YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, DOGS LEAVE YOU... GEE, MY EYE, IT FEELS SO FUNNY... KIND OF WARM...? WELL, LOOK AT THAT...
IT SEEMS LIKE ONE LOOK FROM ME MADE HIM A DEAD DOG!
POOR OLD FELLER... GUESS HE'S DONE FOR...
ALL RIGHT, WISE GUY... DOWN THIS NEXT ALLEY AND NOT A PEEP OUT OF YOU!
WHY, MAX, I... I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU...
I HAD A HUNCH YOU MIGHT TRY TO COME BACK SOONER THAN YOU SAID, AND KEEP THE EMERALD YOURSELF! OKAY, SQUINT, UNSCREW THAT PHONEY EYE!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, MAX... YOU GOT ME ALL WRONG!

SQUINT KNOWS THAT DEATH IS VERY CLOSE, AND THAT MAX WILL NEVER BELIEVE HIS STORY, AND SO...
MAYBE IF I GLARE AT HIM... MY EYE... IT'S GETTING WARM...
WH-WHY ARE YOU L-LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT...
HEY, MIKE, LOOK! THERE'S A GUY BEING HELD UP!
STOP, OR WE'LL SHOOT!
LUCKY WE CAME ALONG JUST THEN! EVER SEE THIS GUY BEFORE?
NEVER! HE WANTED MY MONEY... THREATENED ME...
LATER...
IT CAN'T BE JUST LUCK... THERE MUST BE A POWER IN THAT POWDER THAT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT... A SECRET BEYOND MODERN KNOWLEDGE! I HAVE THE LOOKS THAT KILL--HA! HA! AND WITH IT, I CAN CONTROL ANY MOB -- I CAN BE BOSS SQUINT!
ONE HOLLER FROM YOU AND I'LL KNOCK YOUR EYE OUT WITH THIS!
SURE, BIG STEVE... SURE!
BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING, STEVE-- I CAN KILL YOU WITHOUT RAISING A HAND!
LISTEN, YOU RAT, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THAT EMERALD, YOU BETTER TALK FAST!


FOR THE NEXT HALF HOUR, SQUINT TELLS OF HIS ADVENTURE, WHILE BIG STEVE LAUGHS!
HA-HA-HA-HO! HO! WALKING MUMMIES! POWDERS, HO-HO, SQUINT, YOU'RE KILLING ME! HA-HA-HA!
WHAT'S THIS GUY TRYIN' TO HAND US?
IF THIS IS AN ACT, HE SEEMS PRETTY SERIOUS ABOUT IT!
THE GAG'S OVER, HAND OVER THAT EYE, SQUINT... WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU... STOP STARING AT ME...
LAUGH AT ME, WILL YOU? YOU ASKED FOR IT...

WHY DON'T YOU LAUGH NOW, FAT BOY!
BLIND! I CAN'T SEE... HE MADE ME BLIND!
BOSS... WATCH OUT!

CAN'T SEE...

YOU BETTER RUN... UNLESS YOU WANT TO GO DOWN THE SHORT WAY!
OUT OF MY WAY!

SQUINT DECIDED TO LAY LOW FOR AWHILE... BUT AS HE WAITS FOR HIS BOAT TO LEAVE, HE DID NOT NOTICE THE THREE STRANGE MEN COMING ABOARD...
YES, SIR, "BOSS" SQUINT... YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO THE TOP!

BUT ONE DARK NIGHT DURING THE VOYAGE, THE BULKY STRANGERS WHO HAD BOARDED THE SHIP APPEARED ON DECK AS SILENT AS SHADOWS...
THERE HE IS, OH, ANCIENT KINGS, THE MAN WHO VIOLATED THE CEREMONY! UNTIL YOU DESTROY HIM, THE DEAD CANNOT REST!
WITH CAT-LIKE STEPS, THE AVENGERS SLINK BEHIND THE UNPREPARED SQUINT AND...
KILL... KILL...
IT... IT'S THE MUMMIES... NO! DON'T THROW ME OVERBOARD!
NO ONE ABOARD THE SHIP COULD EXPLAIN SQUINT'S DISAPPEARANCE! SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, AT THE VERY SPOT THAT SQUINT HAD BEEN THROWN INTO THE SEA...
NOW YOU BE CAREFUL DOWN THERE, JIM! WE'VE ALREADY LOST TWO MEN TRYING TO SALVAGE THE GOLD!
AYE, CAPTAIN!
SOMETHING FUNNY DOWN HERE, CAPTAIN... SOMETHING SHINING NEAR THE WRECK... IT LOOKS LIKE AN EYE... STARING AT ME... OH... AIR... URGH... LINES TANG--LED...
JIM! JIM! WHAT'S THE MATTER... ANSWER ME! PULL HIM UP, BOYS!
IT'S TOO LATE... HE'S DEAD!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS JOB! THIS IS AN EVIL PLACE! THERE IS SOMETHING DOWN THERE... LET THE SEA KEEP ITS SECRET, BOYS! UP ANCHOR!
AND WHILE THE SALVAGE SHIP DISAPPEARS OVER THE HORIZON, THE EVIL REMAINS OF SQUINT KEEP A LONELY VIGIL BY THE OLD WRECK WHERE HE DROWNED!
THE END

the MONSTER

THE SON WAS SHINING... BUT IT WAS MORE THAN MERE SUN! THE WATER WAS BLUE AND TERROR REIGNED ON THE EXCURSION BOAT WHEN THEY SIGHTED...

SPRINGTIME AFTERNOONS HAVE FUNNY WAYS! THE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL AT ONE MOMENT, AND SECONDS LATER... RAIN!

WHERE ARE WE, ANGELA? I'VE LOST MY SENSE OF DIRECTION IN THIS DOWNPOUR!

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE PIERS, TOM! I CAN SEE THE WATER!

... IF ONLY I CAN SEE WHERE I'M GOING...

BE CAREFUL, DARLING--ONE SWERVE AND WE'LL TUMBLE OFF THE EDGE!

BUT THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS THE RAIN STARTED, IT STOPPED!
HOW DID WE GET HERE? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
TOM! PERHAPS THOSE PEOPLE ON THE EXCURSION BOAT CAN HELP US!
SUDDENLY THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN...
HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ABOARD! COME WITH US!
THERE'S ROOM FOR TWO MORE!
ANGELA! DON'T LEAVE ME! HEY, THE BOAT'S MOVING!
COME ON--LET'S FIND THE CAPTAIN! MAYBE HE CAN TELL US WHAT SORT OF BOAT THIS IS!
MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO GET OFF!
ABOARD THE SHIP..
...SAY, CAN YOU HELP US? WE...
TOM! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THEY DON'T HEAR US! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I'M FRIGHTENED!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY BOAT! ANGELA... WE'VE STUMBLED ON SOMETHING EVIL AND HORRIBLE!
LOOK HOW THEY'RE STARING AT US...AS IF THEY WANTED TO KILL US!
CAPTAIN, YOU'VE GOT TO PUT US ASHORE! ...WE'RE NOT PASSENGERS ON YOUR EXCURSION BOAT! ALL WE WANTED WAS INFORMATION!
WHY HAVE WE BEEN MADE PRISONERS? WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
SATANA

THIS WAS HORROR UNLIMITED!

THE PASSENGERS SWARMED TOWARD TOM AND ANGELA, SOME LAUGHING, OTHERS SCREAMING...
HURL THEM OVER THE SIDE! LET THEM FEEL THE RIVER OF THE DEAD!
...IF THEY ARE NOT ONE OF US NOW, THE RIVER SHALL MAKE THEM SO!
YHAAH!
EEEE!
H-HELP!
...AND BEFORE HE KNEW IT, TOM WAS SWEPT UP, CLUTCHED IN THE SEA MONSTER'S TENTACLE!

IN THE FRIGID WATERS THEY FOUGHT FOR AIR, WHEN SUDDENLY...
TOM!! LOOK BEHIND YOU!

YEECH! ANGELA... BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BUT THIS THING IS DEAD! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
SUMMONING ALL THEIR STRENGTH THE DUO SWIM THROUGH THE RIVER OF THE DEAD...

TOM! TOM! I-I CAN'T GO ON... MUST REST!
DON'T STOP NOW! ...JUST A FEW MORE YARDS...

ANGELA! LOOK! A PIER! WE MADE IT!

HEY, YOU THERE! GIVE US A HAND! T-THEY DON'T HEAR ME! SOMETHING'S WRONG!

POOR SOULS... DROVE THEIR CAR STRAIGHT OFF THE PIER DURING THE RAINSTORM!
AND SO YOUNG! TOO BAD THEY ENDED UP IN A WATERY GRAVE!

TOM! THAT'S US! WE'RE DEAD! THE PASSENGERS ON THE SATANA... WE BELONG TO THEM! THE EXCURSION WAS FOR US!

THE TRUTH BECAME CLEAR SECONDS LATER WHEN THE EXCURSION BOAT DROPPED ITS GANGPLANK ON THE PIER!
NEXT BOAT LEAVING IMMEDIATELY, MY FRIENDS... WILL YOU JOIN US?
IS THERE A CHOICE?

THE END

THE WITCHES COVEN

MATTY WAS LEFT ALONE AS THE MOONLIGHT TURNED THE WOODS INTO A TERROR-LADEN WORLD OF MACABRE SHADOWS...
I-I'M SCARED! I CAN'T STAY HERE! GOTTA FIND A HOUSE SOMEPLACE! ANYTHING TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!
FOR A LONG TIME MATTY STUMBLED THROUGH THE OVERWHELMING DARKNESS, THEN...
A LIGHT! THERE'S A HOUSE!
OPEN UP! OPEN THE DOOR!
WHO ARE YE? WHAT DO YE WANT ON THIS ACCURSED NIGHT?
PLEASE LET ME COME IN! JUST GIVE ME A PLACE TO SLEEP! ANYWHERE!
ANY OTHER NIGHT AN' YE COULD ENTER! BUT THIS IS THE NIGHT OF THE DARK OF THE MOON! THE DREADFUL NIGHT WHEN ALL THE CREATURES OF EVIL HOLD CONCLAVE! YE'RE CONTAMINATAED WITH EVIL FOR BEING ABROAD, NOW, GO-- AFORE I SET THE DOGS ON YE!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT! ALL I KNOW IS I'M AFRAID OF THESE WOODS! I MUST FIND A PLACE TO STAY--

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, DEEP IN THE WOODS, THE BAND OF EVIL SISTERS, THE WITCHES, HELD CONCLAVE, SELECTING THEIR WITCH QUEEN...
SISTERS, IT IS THE DARK OF THE MOON!
MONSTERS OF THE OUTER DARKNESS! BEAR WITNESS! WE CHOOSE OUR QUEEN!
IT IS SHE! IT IS SHE! SHE IS OUR QUEEN!

COME, SISTER! WE LEAD YOU TO THE HOUSE OF DARKESS!
AYE, SISTER! THERE WE WE PLOT AND PLAN! FOR WE MUST PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR MASTER-- THE-- DEVIL--
STANDING IN THE WOODS WAS THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS, HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE EVIL SISTERS! INSIDE...
SEE, THIS IS THE WITCH TREASURE! 'TIS TAINTED BY EVIL!
AND WITH THIS TREASURE OUR PART OF IT, YE SHALL BUY A MORTAL SOUL TO PAY OUR MASTER!
IT IS THE LAW OF THE OUTER DARKNESS! ONLY BY GIVING A MORTAL SOUL TO THE MASTER CAN WE SURVIVE!

FEAR NOT SISTERS! I WILL CARRY OUT MY DUTY, AND DO IT WELL! NOW IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO DEPART! I WILL NOT FAIL YOU!
WITH THIS I SHALL BUY A MORTAL SOUL--FOR THERE ARE FEW WHO CAN RESIST THE HUNGER OF GREED!
MEANWHILE...
I MUST'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS! THERE'S A HOUSE! MAYBE THE PEOPLE WILL LET ME IN! I CAN'T GO MUCH FURTHER!

STAGGERING TO THE DOOR, MATTY KNOCKED, AND...
I HEARD YOU COMING UP THE PATH! YOU ARE WELCOME, STRANGER!
THANKS! I DON'T THINK I COULD'VE HELD OUT MUCH LONGER!
I KNOW WELL THE FEAR THAT GRIPS YOUR HEART IN THE DARKNESS! YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE! PERHAPS, YOU WOULD LIKE SOME FOOD?
YES... FOR MY TRAVELS HAVE MADE ME HUNGRY!

A SHORT TIME LATER...
EAT WELL! I MUST LOOK TO SOME THINGS I'LL RETURN SOON!
SURE, SURE, I UNDERSTAND! THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
THAT IS THE ONE! HE CAN BE TEMPTED SO EASILY! I SHALL BAIT THE TRAP NOW!
I WILL BUY HIS SOUL WITH THE BLOOD MONEY!

WOW! LOOK AT THE GOLD! THE OLD DAME MUST BE LOADED! I WONDER... I COULD GET HER RICHES EASY! NO ONE SAW ME COME-- SHE LIVES HERE ALONE! YEAH! IT'S MY BE CHANCE!

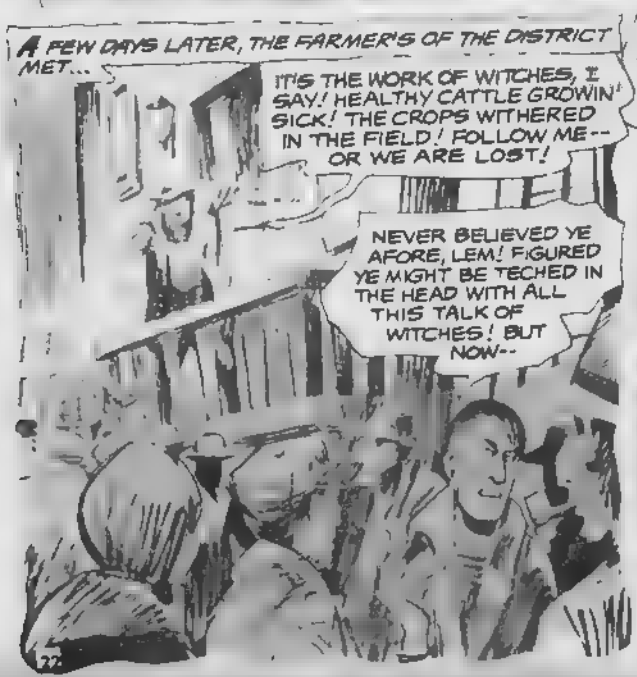
THE POKER'LL DO IT, I'LL BELT HER OVER THE HEAD--AND BY THE TIME THEY FIND HER, I'LL BE GONE!

OH! THE GOLD IS SOAKED WITH HER BLOOD! WELL, THERE'S NO TIME TO BE SQUEAMISH! GOLD IS GOLD! I'LL PICK IT UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!

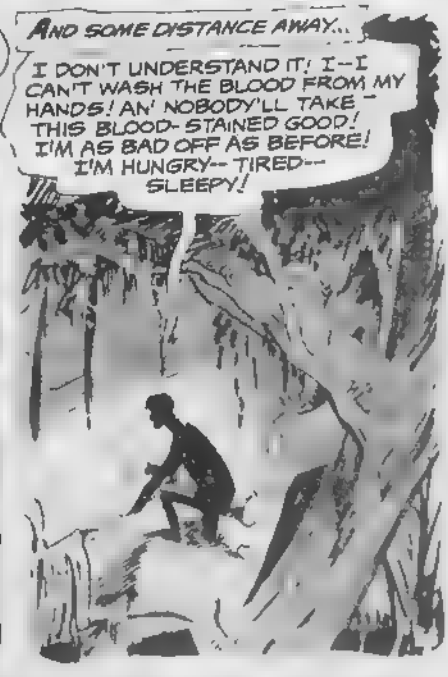
BLOOD ALL OVER MY HANDS TOO! I'LL WASH IT OFF AT THE FIRST STREAM! NOW I MUST GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!

BUT EVEN AS MATTY FLED FROM THE HOUSE, THE EVIL SISTERS APPEARED IN THE ROOM AND STOOD BY THE BODY OF THE QUEEN...
AWAKE, SISTER, AWAKE! DEATH IS NOT FOR THE LIKES OF US!
NAY! OUR ONLY DEATH IS BY THE FLAME!
SHE AWAKENS!

THE MORTAL FELL FOR MY RUSE! HE'S BARTERED HIS SOUL IN BLOOD!
AYE! HE SHALL BE OURS BY THE NEXT DARK OF THE MOON! THE FARMERS HAVE BANDED TOGETHER--AND SEEK TO DESTROY US!
WE MUST FIRST DESTROY THEM! BLIGHT THEIR CROPS! SICK THEIR CATTLE!
AROUND THE STEAMING CAULDRON THE WITCHES CAPERED, AND AS BEFORE, THE NIGHT GREW HIDEOUS WITH THE TERROR OF FOUL CRIES AND WEIRD SHRIEKS
SMOKE OF DARKNESS, BLIGHT ALL YE TOUCH!
VAPORS OF PLAGUE, SWEEP THE COUNTRYSIDE!
CAULDRON! CAULDRON! HEED OUR CRY! CROPS BLIGHT! CATTLE DIE!


A FEW DAYS LATER, THE FARMER'S OF THE DISTRICT MET...
IT'S THE WORK OF WITCHES, I SAY! HEALTHY CATTLE GROWIN' SICK! THE CROPS WITHERED IN THE FIELD! FOLLOW ME--OR WE ARE LOST!
NEVER BELIEVED YE AFORE, LEM! FIGURED YE MIGHT BE TECHED IN THE HEAD WITH ALL THIS TALK OF WITCHES! BUT NOW--

GOOD! AT THE NEXT DARK OF THE MOON, WE'LL HAVE OUR REVENGE--AN' GET RID OF 'EM FOR ALL TIME!


AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! I--I CAN'T WASH THE BLOOD FROM MY HANDS! AN' NOBODY'LL TAKE THIS BLOOD-STAINED GOOD! I'M AS BAD OFF AS BEFORE! I'M HUNGRY--TIRED--SLEEPY!

AS MATTY FELL INTO AN EXHAUSTED SLEEP...
SOON HE WILL BE OURS!
NO MATTER WHERE HE TRAVELS--OR WHERE HE RUNS!
WHO'RE YOU? I--NO! YOU'RE DEAD! YOU'RE DEAD!
I AM BEYOND DEATH! IT IS YOU WHO HAVE PAID THE FINAL PRICE!
WAIT! WAIT! IT WAS A DREAM! THE MONEY! THE BLOODSTAINS THAT WON'T COME OFF! IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THE GOLD! I MUST THROW IT INTO THE DEEPEST STREAM!
THERE! IT'S GONE! NOW I'M FREE! HA! HA! HA! GOLD IS WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED --BUT NOW WHEN I HAVE IT--IT'S AS ACCURSED AS A PLAGUE...
WITHOUT MONEY AGAIN, MATTY DRIFTED, WANDERING AIMLESSLY! THEN, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, ON THE NIGHT OF THE DARK OF THE MOON...
AS THE STUNNED MATTY LOOKED AROUND...
YOUR TIME HAS COME, MATTY ROSS! IT IS THE DARK OF THE MOON! WE HAVE COME TO CLAIM YOU!
NO! NO! THIS IS CRAZY! I-- I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I MUST BE DREAMIN'!
SEIZE HIM!
AYE! THE CONCLAVE WAITS!
HELP! HELP!

AND ONCE AGAIN, THE EVIL CONCLAVE WAS HELD, ATTENDED BY ALL THE GRISLY DEMI-CREATURES OF THE OUTER DARKNESS!
YOU DIE! YOU DIE! IT IS A LIFE FOR YOUR LIVES! YOUR MORTAL SOUL FOR OURS! THAT IS THE BARGAIN! YOU TOOK THE BLOOD-MONEY-- YOU BELONG TO US!

SUDDENLY...
SISTER! WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
CLANG CLANG
THE WITCH BELL, THE FARMERS ARE ON A WITCH HUNT! FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES, SISTERS! IF THEY CAPTURE ONE OF US -- SHE WILL DIE IN THE FLAMES!

THE FARMERS, LED LEM HAWLEY, MARCHED THROUGH THE WOODS, BENT ON DESTROYING THE WITCHES!
KEEP RINGIN' THE BELLS, MEN! THAT IS A SOUND THEY CANNOT STAND! THEN-- WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL--YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
AYE, HAWLEY! THAT WE DO!
CLANG

CLANG CLANG
QUICKLY, SISTER'S LET US FLEE-- TO THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS!
THE BELLS ARE GROWING LOUDER! THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE! BRING THE SACRIFICE WITH US!

BUT AS THE WITCHES RAN TOWARDS THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS, THEY WERE SPOTTED BY THE FARMERS...
SET FIRE ON ALL SIDES! RING 'EM IN!
AHHH! WE ARE DOOMED!

WITH WILD SHRIEKS, THE EVIL SISTERS AND THEIR FOUL COMPANIONS WERE DESTROYED IN THE AVENGING FLAMES...

MATTY ROSS WAS SPARED BY THE FLAMES! BUT HE PAID FOR HIS GREED IN A STRANGE WAY...DOOMED FOREVER TO THE DARKNESS HE DREADED
IT'S DARK! IT'S DARK! I'M AFRAID!
POOR MAN! HE'S BEEN BLINDED BY THE FLAMES! HIS SIN MUST'VE BEEN GREAT TO HAVE EXACTED SUCH A PUNISHMENT!
THE END

JAVITT RODMAN HAD A MACABRE HOBBY... HE COLLECTED TOMBSTONES. BUT HE LITTLE SUSPECTED THAT ONE DAY, HE HIMSELF MIGHT BE COLLECTED BY THAT GRIM, TERRIFYING COLLECTOR FROM BEYOND WHO HAUNTS THE FINAL RESTING PLACES OF MOULDERING BONES.

TOMBSTONE FOR A GHOUL

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T BURY ME YET! I'M NOT LIKE YOU VILE CREATURES--I'M STILL ALIVE!

Reynoso

SOME PEOPLE ARE CONTENT TO HUNT FOR HUMOROUS EPITAPHS ON TOMBSTONES AND JOT THEM DOWN, BUT JAVITT RODMAN CARRIED THAT GRUESOME PASTIME ONE STEP FURTHER...

NO ONE'S AROUND THIS OLD, DESERTED CEMETERY AND THIS CARVED TOMBSTONE IS ONE OF THE MISSING ITEMS FROM MY COLLECTION--I HAVE NO TOMBSTONE WITH AN INSCRIPTION ABOUT A WIFE MURDERER!

THERE! IT'S MINE! MAY THE KILLER'S CORPSE REST IN PEACE... BUT HIS GRAVESTONE RESTS IN MY HOUSE FROM NOW ON!

JANE FRUIT
BORN 2.4.

RETURNING TO HIS HOUSE, JAVITT RODMAN UNLOCKS HIS BACK ROOM AND GAZES AT HIS COLLECTION...
UNRIVALED! UNMATCHED! NO ONE CAN BOAST A ROOMFUL OF TOMBSTONES LIKE MINE!--AND WHAT PLEASANT READING FOR A STORMY NIGHT! BUT THE BEST PART OF MY HOBBY IS THAT THE DEAD CAN'T PROTEST!

A FEW DAYS LATER AS RODMAN DRIVES DOWN A SEEMINGLY UNUSED BACK ROAD..
THAT'S STRANGE! WHAT AN ODD PLACE FOR SUCH A MAGNIFICENT MAUSOLEUM!

THERE'S A TOMBSTONE BY THE SIDE OF THE MAUSOLEUM AND IT LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE A PRIZE ITEM FOR MY COLLECTION!
RODMAN
JAVITT
RODMAN

HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHO ARE YOU?
HOW I KNOW YOUR NAME OR WHAT I AM MATTERS NOT! BUT HEED MY WARNING--- NEVER ENTER HERE!

BUT THE STRANGE WARNING ONLY SERVES TO EXCITE JAVITT RODMAN'S MORBID CURIOUSITY, AND THAT NIGHT, AS A PALE MOON SILVERS THE SILENT BURIAL TOMB...
THE CARETAKER'S GONE! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO READ THE INSCRIPTION ON THAT TABLET AND IF IT'S WORTHWHILE TO TAKE IT WITH ME!

IT'S M-MY NAME! MY BIRTHDATE, BUT WHOM DID I MEET HERE?
JAVITT
RODMAN
BORN

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT MY NAME SHOULD BE ON THAT TABLET... WHATEVER SECRET THERE IS TO THIS LURID PLACE MUST BE INSIDE THE MAUSOLEUM! MAYBE I CAN BREAK THE LOCK!

WITH GRIM DETERMINATION, HE TWISTS THE METAL RAKE, AND SUDDENLY...
THERE! IT'S BROKEN! NOW TO SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THESE DOORS!

WITH A MENACING SCREECH, THE HEAVY MARBLE DOORS ARE PULLED OPEN, AND A DARK, SHADOWY FORM FLUTTERS BY...
A BAT! BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT'S THE ONLY LIVING THING IN THIS SILENT TOMB!

FIVE COFFINS, BUT ONE IS OPEN AND EMPTY!

AND SUDDENLY, BEHIND THE INTRUDER, A GREEN, MOULDERING HAND OF PUTRESCENT FLESH PUSHES BACK A COFFIN COVER...

WELCOME, JAVITT RODMAN! WE HAVE LONG BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
YES, AFTER ALL, YOU ARE ONE OF US!

N-NO! YOU'RE DEAD! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! NOTHING!
BUT WE DO-- WE ARE ALL VIOLATERS OF GRAVES!

WE UNBURIED THE DEAD WHILE WE WERE THE LIVING AND STOLE WHAT WE WANTED! YOU HAVE ROBBED THE DEAD OF THEIR ONLY IDENTITY AFTER DEATH--THEIR TOMBSTONES!
NO! NO!
AND TONIGHT, YOU HAVE OPENED THE DOOR FOR US! THERE IS A GRAVEYARD NEAR-- COME. THERE IS GHOULISH WORK TO BE DONE!

BUT THE CLAMMY ROTTING HANDS OF THE LIVING DEAD TIGHTEN AROUND JAVITT RODMAN, AND HE IS FORCED ALONG TO A NEARBY CEMETERY...
HERE JAVITT, TROPHIES FOR ALL OF US! YOU MAY HAVE YOUR PICK OF THE TOMBSTONES!
--WHILE WE LOOT THE GRAVES!

AND AS JAVITT RODMAN STARES IN HORROR, THE FANTASTIC CREATURES HE RELEASED, BEGIN THEIR SORDID WORK...
AH! THE LIVING ARE SENTIMENTAL FOOLS! THEY ALWAYS BURY THEIR DEAD WITH RINGS ON-- GOLDEN RINGS!

AND BY ANOTHER UNEARTHED COFFIN, A PAIR OF SNIPPING SCISSORS BEGIN THEIR LOATHFUL TASK...
HA,R... I ALWAYS GET A GOOD PRICE FROM THE WIGMAKERS FOR THESE STOLEN LOCKS!

And WITH AN EERIE, CREAKING SOUND A THIRD COFFIN IS PRIED OPEN...
COSTLY WRINGING SHEETS ALWAYS BROUGHT A HIGH SUM AND THE DEAD ARE NEVER COLD... WE KNOW! AND SO SHALL YOU!
NO! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! I WON'T STAY WITH YOU!

BUT STRUGGLE IS USELESS, AND RODMAN IS DRAGGED BACK INTO THE MAUSOLEUM...

LET ME GO! LET ME GO!

COME BACK TO THE COFFIN WITH US! ONE IS EMPTY... WAITING FOR YOU! EACH NIGHT YOU CAN JOIN OUR GHOULISH RAIDS!

ON WILD DESPERATION, JAVITT RODMAN TRIES TO FREE HIMSELF, BUT HE IS HELD IN A DEATH GRIP...

WHY STRUGGLE? YOU ARE LIKE US! JOIN US!

WHERE'S THE CARETAKER? IF HE'D ONLY COME...HE'D HELP ME NOW!

THE "CARETAKER" WOULD HELP HIM! FOOL! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO *HE* IS?

HE IS YOUR ENEMY AND OUR ENEMY! WE ALL HAVE VIOLATED *HIS KINGDOM!*

NO! *STOP!* I'M NOT DEAD LIKE YOU! I WANT TO LIVE!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM HERE! WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS! JOIN US. THIS COFFIN IS YOURS!

NO! IN THE NAME OF MERCY, --*STOP!*

WE HAVE SHOWN NO MERCY TO THE DEAD! WHY SHOULD WE SHOW IT TO THE LIVING?

And AS THE TERRIFIED GRAVE-THIEF IS SHOVED DOWN INTO THE COLD, STONE COFFIN, THE HEAVY LID IS PRESSED RELENTLESSLY DOWN...

CAN'T PUSH IT OFF... THERE'LL BE NO AIR IN HERE--- I'LL *SUFFOCATE!*

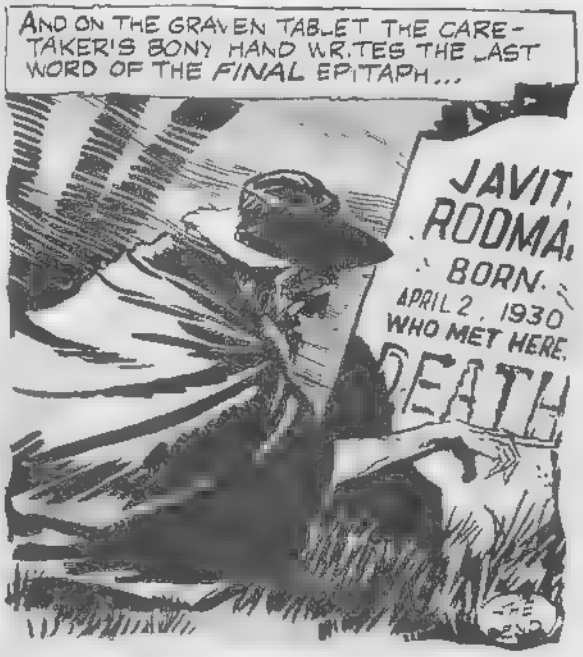
BUT SUDDENLY, THE FIRST RAY OF DAWNING SUNLIGHT STREAKS INTO THE DANK MAUSOLEUM AND THE DECAYING CORPSES SINK INTO THEIR COFFINS...

JAVITT RODMAN PUSHES UP THE STONE LID! SUDDENLY, IT GIVES...
I'M FREE! THEY'RE GONE--BACK INTO THEIR COFFINS! THE NIGHTMARE HAS ENDED!

BUT ONCE OUTSIDE, JAVITT RODMAN SEES THE SINISTER APPROACH OF THE CARETAKER...
NO ONE WILL KEEP ME HERE NOW! I'LL SMASH MY WAY OUT WITH THIS RAKE. NO DECREPIT CARETAKER CAN STOP ME!
WAIT, JAVITT RODMAN! DESPITE MY WARNING YOU CAME! NOW YOU SHALL STAY!

WITH VICIOUS FORCE, JAVITT SLASHES AGAIN AND AGAIN AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE...
I--I CAN'T HARM HIM!... THE RAKE GOES RIGHT THROUGH HIM.
CRACK!

And SUDDENLY THE CARETAKER'S HAND MAKES A SWEEPING MOTION, AS JAVITT RODMAN SINKS TO THE GROUND...
YOU HAVE VIOLATED MY REALM TOO MANY TIMES! THIS TOMBSTONE YOU SHALL NOT STEAL!


AND ON THE GRAVEN TABLET THE CARETAKER'S BONY HAND WRITES THE LAST WORD OF THE FINAL EPITAPH...
JAVIT
RODMA
BORN
APRIL 2, 1930
WHO MET HERE
DEATH
THE END

CURSE of the VAMPIRE

VINCE FOWLER WAS A RUTHLESS, MONEY-MAD OIL TYCOON. WHEN ONE OF FOWLER'S TESTERS DETECTED THE BLACK GOLD BENEATH AN OLD INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS, HE THOUGHT NOTHING OF DISRUPTING THIS LAST RESTING PLACE OF THE **DEAD**!

I'M TELLING YOU, BOSS, I DON'T LIKE THIS JOB OF **DISTURBIN' THE DEAD**! IT GIVES ME THE **CREEPS**!

BALONEY! A BIG GUY LIKE YOU, AFRAID OF THE **BONES** OF LONG-**DEAD** SAVAGES?

SUDDENLY..

VINCE FOWLER! YOU WILL BE **CURSED** WITH **HORRIBLE PUNISHMENT** FOR THIS NIGHT'S **SACRILEGE!**

HUH? **WHAT?** WHERE DID **YOU** COME FROM, OLD HAG?

THIS WAS THE **BURIAL GROUND** OF MY FELLOW TRIBESMEN WHO ARE **FOREVER CURSED**, AND SO IS THE GROUND IN WHICH THEY **ROTTED**! NOW THAT SAME CURSE WILL BE UPON **YOU**, GREEDY ONE!

ARE YOU PUTTING ME ON, OLD LADY? WHY, YOU — WHERE IS SHE? SHE'S VANISHED! SEEMED TO MELT RIGHT INTO THIN AIR AND DISAPPEAR!

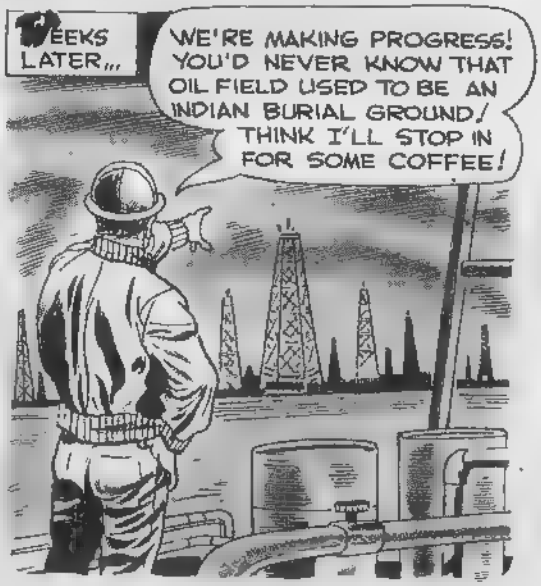
A MOMENT LATER, WHEN THE BURIAL GROUNDS WERE FINALLY CLEARED...
THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THIS PILE OF HALF-ROTTED OLD INDIAN CASKETS IS TO BURN IT! GATHER 'ROUND FOR THE BONFIRE, BOYS!

MY EYES! THAT BLASTED BLACK, MUSTY SMOKE HAS BLINDED ME! I'M GETTING DIZZY! FEEL SO — SO STRANGE!

THE NEXT INSTANT, VINCE FOWLER SAW...
THAT GIRL — THAT INDIAN MAIDEN! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL — LIKE A PRINCESS! SHE'S SMILING, BECKONING TO ME! I-I FEEL DRAWN TOWARD HER!

THE INDIAN GIRL — MUST GET TO HER! LET ME GO! I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE FLAMES!
EASY, MR. FOWLER! YOU'D BURN TO A CRISP! THOSE SMOKE FUMES MUST'VE DRIVEN YOU MAD!

I-I'M ALL RIGHT NOW! DON'T SEE — HER — ANY MORE! MUST'VE BEEN A MIRAGE CAUSED BY THE SMOKE!


WEEKS LATER...
WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS! YOU'D NEVER KNOW THAT OIL FIELD USED TO BE AN INDIAN BURIAL GROUND! THINK I'LL STOP IN FOR SOME COFFEE!

GREAT SCOTT! SHE LOOKS LIKE THE SAME GIRL I SAW IN THE SMOKE AND FLAMES OF THE BURNING CASKETS! I— I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
COFFEE, SIR?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BEAUTIFUL? I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME, AND I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!
I'M MARIA. FUNNY, BUT I FEEL THE SAME ABOUT YOU!

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, FOWLER'S WHIRLWIND COURTSHIP SWEPT THE DARK AND LOVELY MARIA OFF HER FEET!

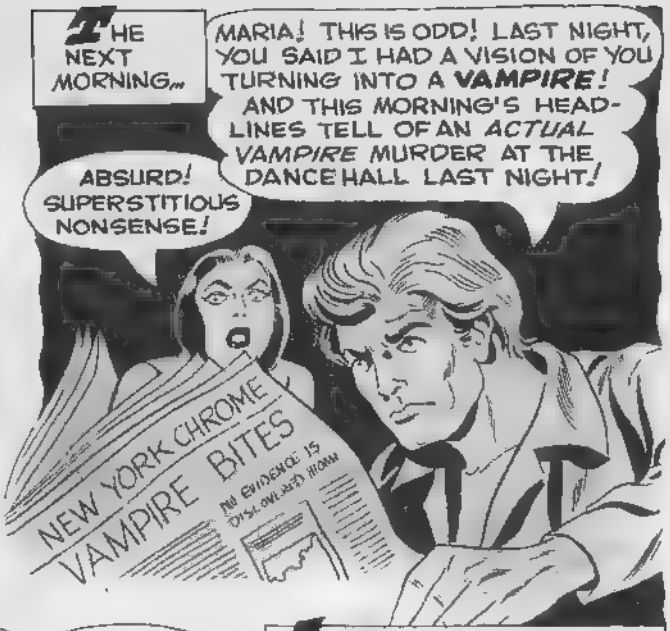
AND SO, THE FOLLOWING WEEK...
WHAT A HANDSOME COUPLE YOUNG FOWLER AND HIS BRIDE MAKE! SHE'S A LUCKY GIRL!
HE'S LUCKY, TOO! SHE'S SWEET AND BEAUTIFUL!

CREATURE OF EVIL! I CANNOT PERMIT THIS MARRIAGE! BACK TO YOUR GRAVE, FOUL BEING!
VINCE! STOP HER! SAVE ME!

DIE AGAIN! DIE! DIE! BACK TO YOUR CURSED GRAVE!
SHE'S STABBED MARIA! GRAB HER!
SHE STABBED YOU! I SAW IT, MARIA— YET YOU'RE NOT HURT! THERE'S NO WOUND!
YOU—ER—MUST'VE BEEN MISTAKEN, VINCE! MAYBE THE BLADE TURNED ASIDE AT THE LAST MOMENT!

A FEW HOURS AFTER THE STRANGE ATTACK AT THE CHURCH ...
WHAT DID THAT UGLY OLD CRONE MEAN, MARIA — CALLING YOU A CREATURE OF EVIL AND ALL THAT STUFF?
FORGET IT, VINCE! SHE MUST'VE BEEN INSANE!
ALL RIGHT, SWEETHEART! NOW, HOW ABOUT A KISS FROM MY NEW BRIDE? I— MARIA! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU? YOU'RE CHANGING!
CHANGING, VINCE? HOW? I- I DO FEEL A LITTLE STRANGE!
YOU- YOU'VE BECOME A VAMPIRE! THAT OLD CRONE WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE EVIL — OF ANOTHER WORLD!
BE CALM, MY HUSBAND! IT WILL NOT LAST LONG! BUT NOW I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A WHILE!
NO, MARIA! YOU CAN'T...
I MUST GO! GET OUT OF MY WAY! NOTHING CAN STOP ME!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AT THE DANCE HALL WHERE SOME OF FOWLER'S OIL WORKERS WERE CELEBRATING HIS WEDDING ...
WH- WHERE DID THAT CREATURE COME FROM? SHE'S A VAMPIRE! SHE'S KILLING JAKE! SOMEBODY HELP HIM!
AEEEEE!
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!
HER MAD CRAVINGS APPEASED, MARIA RETURNED HOME, IN HER HUMAN FORM ONCE AGAIN ...
WH- WHAT HAPPENED? OOOOOH, MY HEAD!
EASY, DARLING! YOU HAD A STRANGE HALLUCINATION THAT I TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE! YOU GREW VIOLENT AND WHEN I STRUGGLED WITH YOU, YOU FELL AND BLACKED OUT!

YES, I-I DO REMEMBER SOME HORRIBLE VISION LIKE THAT! MUST'VE BEEN AS YOU SAID!
OF COURSE, DARLING! NOW RELAX AND REST, AND FORGET ABOUT IT!


THE NEXT MORNING...
MARIA! THIS IS ODD! LAST NIGHT, YOU SAID I HAD A VISION OF YOU TURNING INTO A VAMPIRE! AND THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES TELL OF AN ACTUAL VAMPIRE MURDER AT THE DANCE HALL LAST NIGHT!
ABSURD! SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!
NEW YORK CHROME
VAMPIRE BITES
NO EVIDENCE IS DISCOVERED YET

A LITTLE LATER...
I'VE NICKED MY FACE WITH THE RAZOR, MARIA!
YOU — YOU'RE BLEEDING! BLOOD!

BLOOD! THE SIGHT OF BLOOD DRIVES ME MAD! MAD! I MUST...
STOP IT! I'M VINCENT, YOUR HUSBAND! YOU- YOU WOULDN'T ATTACK ME!

AS FOWLER WIPED THE BLOOD FROM HIS FACE, MARIA CALMED DOWN...
YOU'RE RIGHT, VINCE! I DID BECOME A VAMPIRE LAST NIGHT!
HOW COULD SUCH A HIDEOUS THING HAPPEN? TELL ME ABOUT IT, MARIA!

OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, I WAS AN INDIAN PRINCESS OF TAINTED BLOOD! I WAS CAUGHT PRACTICING VAMPIRISM, WAS EXECUTED AND BURIED IN THE CEMETARY OF EVIL! WHEN YOUR MEN DUG UP THE GRAVES AND BURNED THE CASKETS, A STRANGE THING HAPPENED!

THE FLAMES GAVE TEMPORARY PURIFICATION AND MY RELEASED SPIRIT, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND OF THE CEMETARY OF EVIL, I INSTANTLY TOOK ANOTHER WOMAN'S FORM— A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL ONE!
THEN I WAS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!

YES, VINCE, AND NOW YOU *MUST* HELP ME! AN INDIAN WITCH WOMAN TRIED TO WARN YOU THE NIGHT YOU SAW ME IN THE SMOKE AND THEN TRIED TO DESTROY ME!

I WILL HELP YOU, MARIA!

THAT NIGHT...

BIND ME TIGHTLY, VINCE, SO THAT IF THE CHANGE COMES OVER ME AGAIN TONIGHT, I CANNOT GO TO *KILL!*

YES! PERHAPS THIS WAY WE'LL BREAK THE EVIL SPELL OVER YOU!

LATER...

BUT YOU MUST RELEASE ME! I'LL DO *ANYTHING* FOR YOU— GIVE YOU SUPERNATURAL POWERS!

NO! I-I CAN'T! PERHAPS IT WILL LAST ONLY A LITTLE LONGER! CAN'T LET HER HYPNOTIZE ME INTO FREEING HER! I MUST BE STRONG!

IT'S NO USE, VINCE FOWLER! THE CHAIN OF EVENTS YOU STARTED BY DESECRATING THE CEMETARY OF EVIL MUST GO THROUGH TO THEIR HORRIBLE FINISH! YOU CANNOT PREVENT IT!

YOU AGAIN! MARIA'S WITCH-WOMAN ANCESTOR!

YOU WENT AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE DEVIL-GODS BY DESTROYING THE BURIAL GROUNDS! NOW YOU MUST PAY THE PENALTY!

I'M GETTING CONFUSED — SLEEPY... WEAK-WILLED!

THERE — YOU'RE FREE! NOW GO TO YOUR EVIL WORK! IT IS THE ONLY WAY FOR THIS TO END NOW!

YES! YES! I WILL FIND *MANY* VICTIMS TONIGHT!

AND SO, MARIA SOARED VULTURE-LIKE THROUGH THE DARKNESS, STRIKING AT INNOCENT, TERROR-FROZEN VICTIMS, AGAIN AND AGAIN!

THE NEXT MORNING...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! I DIDN'T CHANGE BACK TO HUMAN FORM AT DAWN! AN ANGRY MOB HAS PURSUED ME HERE! HELP ME, VINCE!
YOU ARE HIDEOUS IN DAYLIGHT, MARIA! UGH!
WE FOLLOWED THE VAMPIRE HERE, FOWLER! WE DEMAND YOU TURN HER OVER TO US!
WHAT DISGRACE, WHAT HORROR YOU'VE BROUGHT TO ME, MARIA! I- I CANNOT STAND IT ANY MORE!
I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF!
NO! YOU ALONE CAN KILL ME! YOU, WHO GAVE ME NEW LIFE, ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THAT! I- I MUST FLEE YOU!
OUT OF THE HOUSE AND THROUGH THE MOB, FOWLER PURSUED HIS ACCURSED BRIDE. THE CHASE LED TO THE OIL FIELDS, WHERE...
SHE CANNOT ESCAPE ME! I MUST KILL HER!
YOU CANNOT CAPTURE ME! I'M WINGED AND CAN FLY FROM — ARRRRGGH!
GOT HER!
EEEEEYIIEEEE!
FOWLER'S LOST HIS GRIP! HE'S FALLING, TOO!
UGH! FOWLER'S DEAD, AND SHE'S NOTHING BUT MOLDY BONES AND ROTTED VAMPIRE WINGS!
HEH-HEH-HEH! IT HAPPENED RIGHT ON THE SITE OF MARIA'S FORMER GRAVE! THE GODS OF EVIL HAVE RECLAIMED THEIR OWN!
the END

THE DEVIL'S SWORD

EACH YEAR, IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN BULL-FIGHT TOWN OF METAXOS, NESTLED AT THE FOOT OF MT. POCO, STRANGE CEREMONIAL RITES WERE HELD ON THE EVE BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT! THE WEIRD CEREMONY WAS CLIMAXED BY THE MATADOR OF THE PRECEDING YEAR PLUNGING THE FLAMING SWORD OF MIRACLES INTO THE HEART OF THE DEVIL BULL ... ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND OF THE TOWN, THESE RITES WERE TO PROTECT THE TOWN FROM TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION BY THE ERUPTION OF MT. POCO FOR ANOTHER YEAR!

WITH THIS MIRACLE SWORD, ORIGINALLY OWNED BY A SPANISH KNIGHT CENTURIES AGO, I NOW PERFORM THE FINALE!

VIVA THE SWORD OF MIRACLES!

VIVA JUAN PEREZ, THE WORLD'S GREATEST MATADOR!

GRANDMA, THEY MUST DIP THE GREAT SWORD IN OIL, FIRST, TO MAKE IT BURN!

SILENCE BOY! IF THE SWORD REMAINS IN THE HEART OF THE DEVIL BULL FOR 24 HOURS, SATAN WILL BE HARMLESS FOR A FULL YEAR!

ANOTHER MATADOR, MIGUEL CALVADOS, WATCHED THE FANTASTIC ANTICS WITH GRIM AMUSEMENT...

WHAT SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE! SUCH A FUSS OVER PEREZ AND THAT SILLY SWORD! ANYONE KNOWS THERE IS NO SUCH PERSON AS THE DEVIL!

DO NOT BE SO CERTAIN THERE IS NO SATAN, MIGUEL CALVADOS!
HOW THE DEVIL DID YOU GET IN HERE? MY DOOR IS LOCKED! I DID NOT ORDER WINE!
HEH! HEH! PERHAPS YOU HAVE ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION, MIGUEL!
TAKE THE WINE BACK!
IT IS A GIFT OF THE MANAGEMENT TO YOU WHO WILL BE THE NEW CHAMPION... THE MASTER MATADOR AFTER TOMORROW'S TOURNAMENTS IN THE BULL RING! AND YOU WILL REPLACE THE MIGHTY JUAN PEREZ! IT IS DESTINED!

RIDICULOUS! I HAVEN'T A CHANCE OF BEATING PEREZ! HE IS AT THE PEAK OF HIS SKILL! ALTHOUGH, I'D DO ANYTHING TO BECOME THE CHAMPION TOMORROW BY DEFEATING PEREZ!
ANYTHING SENOR? DO EXACTLY TWO THINGS... AND WHAT YOU DESIRE WILL BE ARRANGED!
FIRST, YOU MUST REMOVE THE SWORD OF MIRACLES FROM THE HEART OF THE DEVIL BULL! SECONDLY TAKE THE SWORD TO THE CAVE OF DEMONS, IN THE CLIFFS OF MT. POCO!
I-I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!

OBEY MY INSTRUCTIONS, AND TOMORROW YOU WILL BECOME THE MASTER MATADOR!
HE... HE'S DISAPPEARING RIGHT THROUGH THE DOOR! I-IT MUST BE MY EYES! I'M SEEING THINGS!
INSTANTLY, MIGUEL CALLED THE HOTEL DESK, AND...
YOU HAVE NO WAITER ANSWERING THAT DESCRIPTION? YOU SENT NO ONE UP HERE WITH A BOTTLE OF WINE? YOU'RE POSITIVE? OH-- YES... I SEE...

WELL, THE WINE IS HERE... I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A SWALLOW! I'VE BECOME SO HIGH-STRUNG... I IMAGINED THAT CRAZY-TALKING WAITER WALKED RIGHT THROUGH THE DOOR!
WINE... MADE ME... DIZZY! FEEL STRANGE... NO HARM IN FOLLOWING HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
MIGUEL WAITED UNTIL THE LAST STRAGGLERS LEFT THE TOWN SQUARE, THEN...
I-I FEEL WEAK... TORN BETWEEN THE DESIRE TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS AND THE URGE NOT TO MEDDLE WITH THE MIRACLE SWORD! BUT... THERE IT IS... DONE NOW!
NOW TO THE CAVE OF DEMONS! DO I IMAGINE IT OR DOES THE VOLCANO REALLY SEEM TO SMOKE AND BURN MORE BRIGHTLY TONIGHT?
UGH! THOSE LIMESTONE FORMATIONS DO LOOK LIKE DEMONS... I-I'LL JUST LEAVE THE SWORD HERE AND VAMOOSE!
LIGHTNING STREAKING THROUGH THE CAVE STRUCK THE STONE DEMONS! THEY-THEY'VE MOVED! THEY SEEM TO BE ALIVE!
THEY ARE ALIVE! THEY'VE GOT ME! I-I CAN'T GET AWAY! HELP! HELP!
IT'S NO USE, MIGUEL! STOP STRUGGLING! YOU'VE MADE A BARGAIN AND MUST KEEP IT!

FULFILL YOUR MISSION HERE, AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED! PICK UP THE SWORD OF MIRACLES! WE WHO ARE EVIL DARE NOT TOUCH IT!
WHA-- WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

TERROR-STRICKEN, MIGUEL DID AS THE DEMONS DEMANDED, THEN WAS LED ALONG A TUNNEL TO THE EDGE OF A FIERY PIT...
FLING THAT CURSED SWORD OF MIRACLES INTO THE FLAMES OF HADES... QUICKLY!
YES! ANYTHING YOU S-SAY!

... WHAT N-- SATAN...
YES! YOUR ACT RELEASES ME FROM MY FIERY PRISON! TOMORROW YOU WILL REAP YOUR PROMISED REWARD!
THIS CHOKING, BLINDING HEAT! CAN'T STAND IT! GETTING WEAK! BLACKING OUT...
WHEN HE LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS, REMOVE HIM!
LATER...
BACK IN MY ROOM! THAT WINE DOPED! I-- I JUST DREAMED ALL THAT ABOUT THE CAVE OF DEMONS! THAT MUST BE THE EXPLANATION!

THE NEXT DAY...
WOE TO US ALL! SOMEONE HAS REMOVED THE SWORD OF MIRACLES FROM THE DEVIL BULL!
THAT ALSO MEANS DEATH IN THE RING TODAY FOR JUAN PEREZ! SO SAYS THE LEGEND!
I-I DID STEAL THE SWORD! THAT PART WAS NO DREAM! BUT THE REST OF IT COULDN'T BE TRUE! NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO THE TOWN, NOR TO PEREZ! THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

BUT THAT AFTERNOON, MIGUEL'S SCOFFING AT THE TOWN LEGEND TURNED TO FEARFUL TRIUMPH...
JUAN PEREZ FATALLY GORED! SATAN KEPT HIS PROMISE! THE GRISLY EXCHANGE IS COMPLETED!

NOW IS MY CHANCE! IF I CAN KILL THE BULL THEY'LL HAVE TO MAKE ME THE MASTER MATADOR!
RUN! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH A HUGE AND VICIOUS BEAST!

AN IMAGE? APPEARING ON THE UNDER SIDE OF MY CAPE!
DO NOT BE AFRAID! I'VE GIVEN YOU PART OF MY SATANIC POWER SO THAT YOU MAY KILL THIS BEAST AND BE PROCLAIMED THE CHAMPION AS AGREED!

FINALLY WITH THE PRECISION OF A MACHINE, MIGUEL SINKS THE BLADE HOME...
VIVA MIGUEL, THE NEW CHAMPION!
LISTEN TO THEM! I'M FAMOUS, A HERO! A NATIONAL FIGURE! THEY WORSHIP ME! THIS WAS WORTH A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!

NOW, PERHAPS THE BEAUTIFUL SEÑORITA VALLES WILL NO LONGER CALL ME CONCEITED, SELFISH, OVER-AMBITIOUS FOOL!
THE GREAT MIGUEL COMES TO YOU, SEÑORITA! HOW CAN YOU RESIST HIM NOW!

MIGUEL, YOU'VE CHANGED! YOU SEEM TO POSSESS A STRANGE, NEW POWER! AND THERE IS A WEIRD, DEVILISH LOOK IN YOUR EYES I CANNOT RESIST!
IT MUST BE THE SATANIC POWER GIVEN TO ME!

LATER..
NOW THAT I'M POSSESSED OF SATAN'S SPECIAL POWERS, NOTHING S IMPOSSIBLE! I WILL USE IT TO EVERY ADVANTAGE... EITHER POLITICS, RULE THE PEOPLE... GET RICH!
NO! I AGREED ONLY TO LET YOU BECOME MASTER MATADOR! YOU MUST NOT FORCE THE SENORITA TO LOVE YOU! AND FORGET YOUR POLITICAL AMBITIONS!
HA! YOU CANNOT COMMAND ME! I'M NOW AS MIGHTY AS YOU, EVIL ONE!
ONCE A MORTAL IS GIVEN SATAN'S POWER, IT CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY AGAIN-- EXCEPT IN DEATH! YOU WILL PAY FOR REBELLING AGAINST ME!
EEYAHHRR!
THUD
AS THE CORPSE OF MIGUEL LAY IN STATE, HIS PUBLIC PASSED TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS...
HE'S RISING FROM THE CASKET!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED! I'M NO LONGER DEAD! A MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED!
YES... THE MIRACLE OF EVIL, MIGUEL! YOU HAVE A NEW LIFE, BUT ONLY SO THAT YOU MAY SERVE ME!
LOOK! THE EVIL ONE HAS CLAIMED HIS SOUL! MIGUEL IS NOW ONE OF THE DEVIL'S MINIONS!
HE'S TALKING TO SOMEONE-- SOMETHING THAT WE CANNOT SEE! FLEE WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME
PLEASE--I CANNOT REMAIN IN THIS STATE AND FACE THE LOATHING OF MY PEOPLE! RELEASE ME!
YOU WHIMPER AND WHINE LIKE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SOLD OUT TO ME! VERY WELL, YOU WILL BE FREED INTO DEATH AGAIN, IF YOU WILL GET THE TOWNSPEOPLE--ALL OF THEM-- TO SURRENDER THEIR SOULS TO ME! I WILL SHOW YOU HOW!

AT THAT MOMENT, OUTSIDE...
THE LEGEND WAS TRUE! WITH THE THEFT OF THE SWORD OF MIRACLES MT. POCO HAS ERUPTED!
WE ARE DOOMED TO DIE UNDER A RIVER OF BURNING LAVA!
WAIT! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE! SATAN HAS UNLEASHED HIS FURY UPON YOU! IF YOU'LL SELL HIM YOUR SOULS--ALL OF YOU-- I'LL TURN ASIDE THE WALL OF LAVA AND SAVE YOU!
PROVE YOUR POWER!
PRODUCT OF THE FIRES OF HADES, OBEY ME, A MINION OF SATAN! STOP YOUR DESTRUCTIVE FLOW! PROVE TO THESE HUMANS THE POWER OF HIS SATANIC MAJESTY!

THE BLAZING RIVER STOPPED! THE TOWNSFOLK WERE AWED BY THE FEAT, WHEN SUDDENLY...
ARRRRGGHH! THE SWORD OF MIRACLES! IT'S POWER FOR GOOD WAS STRONGER THAN THE FLAMES OF EVIL! I-I'M DYING! EEYAAAH!
THE MIRACLE SWORD HAS RETURNED TO THE TOWN AND KILLED MY MIGUEL! I'M BEING RETURNED TO THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE EARTH!

WE ARE SAVED! THE SWORD OF MIRACLES HAS DONE ALL THIS! IT'S INDEED ENDOWED WITH THE POWER OF GOOD!
THE NEXT DAY...
POOR MIGUEL! IN THIS FINAL DEATH, HE AT LEAST REGAINED HIS OWN APPEARANCE, EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEING BURIED IN SINNER'S FIELD, ALONE... IN DISGRACE
IT IS ONLY JUST!
THE END

ONE MORE STEP AND I'LL EXPLODE ALL THE AIR ON THE MOON! DEATH FOR US ALL!

SINCE MAN FIRST SCOOPED UP ROCKS ON THE MOON, IT HAS BEEN MANKIND'S DREAM TO COLONIZE THAT LONELY SATELLITE. WHEN WE DO, VALUES WILL CHANGE. THE FOLLOWING IS A BLOODY TALE OF POWER THROUGH TERROR WHEREIN AIR, THAT USED TO BE FREE, WILL BE MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD!

SHE'S DESPERATE ENOUGH-- SHE'LL DO IT!

LUA! LUA DEAR!

THE MOON IS RED

THE PEOPLE ARE SMOULDERING WITH REBELLION! PLOTTERS ARE AT WORK, TO OVERTHROW OUR GOVERNMENT!

NONESENSE, HARTT! YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS! JUST A FEW LUNITES ARE DISSATISFIED!

REBELLION! IS THREATENING THE LITTLE LUNITE RACE-- ALL ARE DESCENDENTS OF THE ORIGINAL EARTH COLONISTS ARE A DOCILE, KINDLY PEOPLE! BUT LATELY ANIMOSITY TOWARD GOVERNOR BLAK IS OBVIOUS...

SOMEONE IS STIRRING UP THE TROUBLE, GOVERNOR BLAK!

NONESENSE, MY BOY!

HARTT GOES TO SEE HIS FRIEND GINO, A LINITE WORKER IN THE RADIUM MINES! ON THE AIRLESS MOON, THE CITY IS UNDER GLASSITE ROOFS, WITH NORMAL AIR PRESSURE MAINTAINED BY THE ELECTRONIC CURRENT SUDDENLY...
... IF THE POWER HOUSE SHOULD BE ATTACKED, THE WHOLE MOON COLONY COULD BE THREATENED WITH ASPHIXATION... WHA--?!

AND THEN...

THE ASSAILANT IS CLOAKED WITH ELECTRONIZED INVISIBILITY...
NO YOU DON'T!

GOT YOU, YOU MURDEROUS VILLAIN!
OOF!

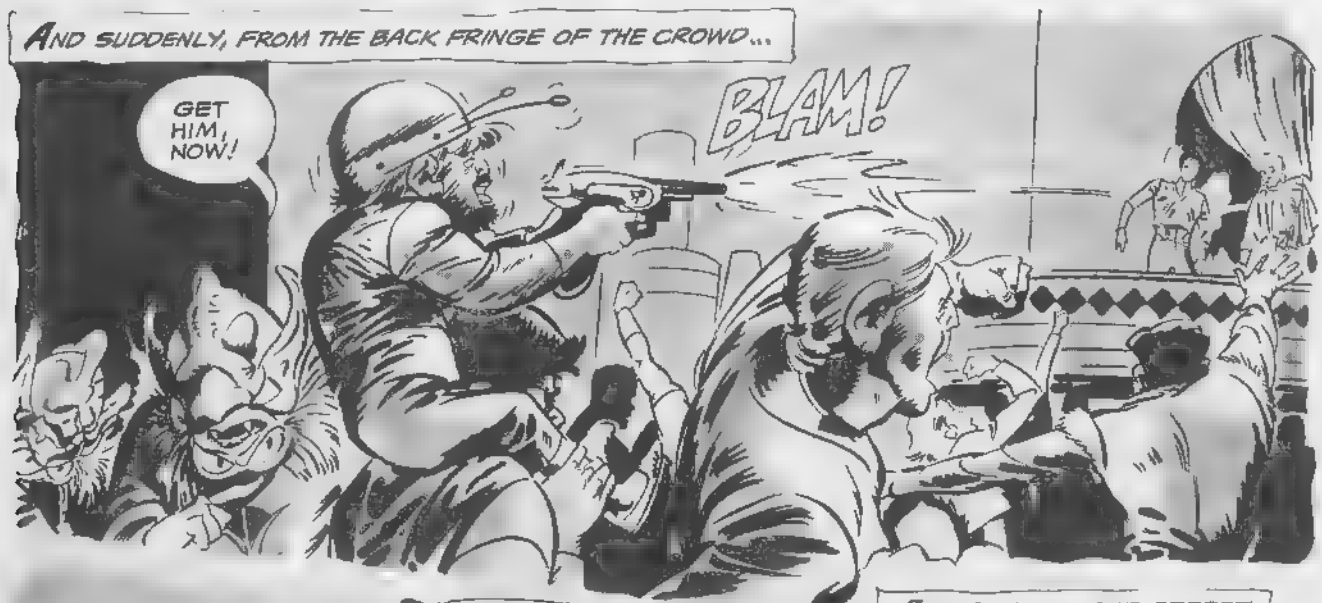
THE ELECTRONIC MECHANISM IS WRECKED! AND HARTT SEES...
A MARTIAN!

THAT EVENING, HARTT HAS SUPPER WITH GINO, AND HIS YOUNG WIFE LUA!
IT WAS A MARTIAN WHO TRIED TO MURDER ME!
MARTIANS ARE SENT HERE TO CAUSE TROUBLE! THEY TELL THE PEOPLE WE SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT, AND SET UP OUR OWN GOVERNMENT!

IT WOULD ONLY BE A PUPPET GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE! THEY WOULD USE IT AS A BASE FROM WHICH TO ATTACK THE UNIVERSE!
YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING, JARA?
I HAVE HEARD OF THE PLOT! MARTIANS CAUSE THE TROUBLE! I HAVE SEEN THEM WHISPERING-- PLANNING!

THERE'S A CROWD OUTSIDE!
HE'S IN THERE! GET HIM OUT! KILL HIM!
AFTER ME! BECAUSE I REPRESENT THE EARTH GOVERNMENT! OPEN THE DOOR, GINO! I'LL GO OUT AND TALK TO THEM!

BE QUIET! YOU HAVE NO QUARREL WITH EARTH! YOU ARE THE DUPES OF THE MARTIAN PLOT!
THERE HE IS!... YAH...


AND SUDDENLY, FROM THE BACK FRINGE OF THE CROWD...
GET HIM, NOW!
BLAM!

JAC! COME INSIDE! THEY'LL KILL YOU!
HERE COME THE POLICE!

AND AT A DISTANT STREET CORNER...
THE TIME HAS COME! OUR CHANCE IS NOW-- TONIGHT!
GINO, LOOK! I KNOW THAT FELLOW-- SET MALO, A MARTIAN RENEGADE! HE'S THE LEADER OF THIS!

LATER THAT NIGHT!
THERE'S A CELLAR NEAR HERE! OUR SERVANT, JARA, SAYS SHE THINKS THE PLOTTERS HAVE BEEN MEETING HERE!

AND PRESENTLY...
THERE THEY ARE!
ALREADY THEY HAVE LEFT FOR THE POWER HOUSE!
THAT MALO IS SMART! IN AN HOUR WE WILL RULE THE MOON!
SHH! LISTEN!

THEY'VE GONE UP THE MOUNTAIN TO THE POWER HOUSE!
WE'LL CALL AND WARN GRANTLINE AT ONCE!

...CAN'T DO, THE AUDIO-CIRCUIT IS BROKEN! ALL COMMUNICATIONS ARE WRECKED!
WE--WE CAN'T NOTIFY ANYONE!

IN A NEARBY PRESSURE-PORTE, GIVING ACCESS TO THE BLEAK AIRLESS MOON SURFACE...
WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB UP TO THE POWER HOUSE AND WARN GRANTLINE!

WITH THE CORRIDOR-PANEL CLOSED, HARTT OPENS THE OUTER PANEL! WITH A SURGING ROAR, THE AIR IN THE LITTLE PORTE RUSHES OUT!
FFFZZZZ

UNDER THE CITY ROOF, GRAVITY NORMAL TO EARTH IS MAINTAINED! BUT OUT HERE ON THE MOON SURFACE, GRAVITY IS ONLY ONE-FIFTH OF NORMAL! WITH HUGE, 30 FOOT SAILING LEAPS, HARTT AND GINO START THEIR LONG CLIMB!
KEEP ALERT, GINO! MALO'S MEN MAY BE ANYWHERE AROUND HERE!

THE POWER HOUSE SITS ON A CLIFF OF ARCHIMEDES MOUNTAINS! AND AS HARTT AND GINO APPROACH...
LOOK! THERE'S ONE OF GRANT-LINE'S GUARDS!
MAYBE IT ISN'T! WATCH YOURSELF, GINO!

BRIEF, WEIRD COMBAT! AND AS HARTT'S KNIFE-BLADE STRIFES...
GOT YOU!
UGH!
FSSSSS

WITH HIS AIR GONE, HE'S ASPHYXIATED! A MARTIAN!
MALO MUST HAVE ALREADY CAPTURED THE POWER HOUSE!

AND A MOMENT LATER...
LOOK, THERE'S ONE OF THE PRESSURE ENTRANCES! WE'LL TRY AND GET INSIDE!

IN THE LITTLE ENTRANCE...
YOU CAN SEE INSIDE? WHAT IS IT?
GINO! LOOK HERE! QUIET!

SO YOU CAME UP HERE TO HELP ME, BECAUSE YOU HATE EARTHMEN! IS THAT WHAT YOU SAY, BOY?
Y-YES SIR!
JAC! THAT--THAT'S MY WIFE, LUA!

FROM HER SERVANT, JARA, LUA HAD LEARNED OF MALO'S PLOT TO CAPTURE THE POWER HOUSE! SHE HAD TRIED TO LOCATE GINO AND HARTT, BUT COULD NOT! THEN WITH HER OWN DESPERATE PLAN, SHE DISGUISED HERSELF AS A MINE-WORKER, AND ARRIVED...

YOU WORK HARD IN THE MARE IMBRIUM RADIUM MINES?

YES SIR! AND THE EARTHMAN OVERSEER-- I HATE HIM! I WILL TELL MY PEOPLE THAT YOU ARE THEIR BEST RULER!

BUT LUA'S DISGUISE IS NOT AS GOOD AS SHE THINKS! SUDDENLY MALO REACHES...

A GIRL! A VERY PRETTY GIRL! BY THE STARWAYS, WHAT LUCK FOR ME!

OHHH!

AND AT THE ENTRANCE, THE DESPERATE GINO AND HARTT OPEN THE SLIDE...

GIVE ME A KISS, AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP ME! IN AN HOUR GOVERNOR BLAK WILL HAVE TO SURRENDER! IF HE DOESN'T, I'LL OPEN THE CITY VALVES AND LET OUT ITS AIR! HE AND EVERYONE ELSE DOWN THERE WILL SUFFOCATE!

LUA! LUA!

DESPERATELY HARTT AND GINO BATTLE THE VILLAINOUS MARTIANS, BUT THE ODDS ARE TOO GREAT!

HO! WHAT HAVE WE HERE? MORE VISITORS! DON'T KILL THEM, ROK! TIE THEM UP-- I WANT TO TALK TO THEM!

SO IT'S THE GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY! I GUESS YOU KNOW THIS GIRL AND WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE? SUPPOSE YOU TELL--

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M DOING HERE!

LUA'S DESPERATE PLAN! SUDDENLY SHE LEAPS FOR THE MAIN AIR-SWITCH OF THE BIG CONTROL BOARD!

NOW YOU'LL DO WHAT I TELL YOU OR I'LL PULL THIS SWITCH! WITH ALL THE AIR GONE, WE'LL ALL DIE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...

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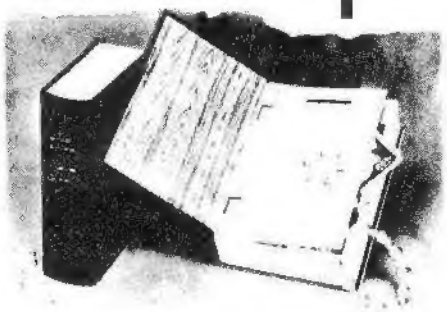

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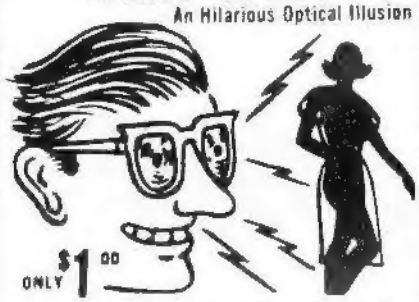

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UNTIE THOSE PRISONERS! I'LL GIVE YOU TEN SECONDS OR WE DIE!
ROK! DO AS SHE SAYS!

ALL RIGHT! NOW, ALL OF YOU, GET OVER AGAINST THE WALL! GINO-- JAC-- TIE THEM UP! WATCH THEM!
THAT LITTLE FOOL! SHE'D DO IT, TOO!
SHE SURE WOULD, MALO! TAKE NO CHANCES!

AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, WITH THE VILLIANS SECURELY ROPED...
WE'VE GOT THEM, LUA! DARLING, YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT!
W-WAS I? OHH...
POOR KID, SHE'S FAINTED!

A YEAR HAS PASSED! THE LITTLE LUNITE COLONY WANTED ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND CONGRESS HAS GRANTED IT! IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE, GINO PREPARES TO TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE!

AS FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MOON, I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR...

A NATION IS BORN! AND I PAY HOMAGE TO THE FIRST LADY OF THE MOON!
OH THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

THE END